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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

March 22, 1974

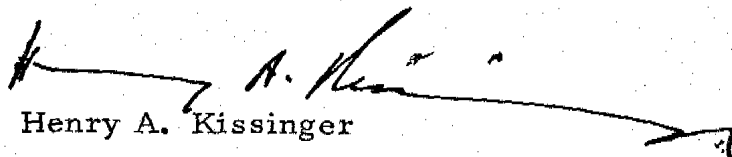
MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Suez Canal Mine and Ordnance Clearance

The President has instructed that the Department of Defense proceed immediately to assist the Government of Egypt in clearing mines from the Suez Canal and in disposing of other unexploded ordnance in the vicinity of the Canal.

The use of U. S. military and Defense Department personnel is authorized as required. The operation will be closely coordinated with the Department of State and the United States Ambassador to Egypt.


Henry A. Kissinger

OSD REVIEWED 01-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

cc: Deputy Secretary of State

DOS REVIEWED 02 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTIONCONFIDENTIAL

March 20, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: HAROLD H. SAUNDERS

SUBJECT: Instructions to the Defense
Department for Suez Canal
Clearance Operation

The Defense Department is asking for a formal go-ahead on the Suez Canal clearance operation. This is simply the formality of putting an authorization on paper. I have set this up in the form of a memorandum for the President in case you have not already talked with him about it.

This memorandum does not deal with the question of funding since we want to get the clearing started quickly and the question of whether and how to reimburse the Defense Department needs more staff work. I will send you a memo on that separately.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you seek approval for signing the directive to the Defense Department which is under the attached memorandum for the President. (Tab A)

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: Go-ahead for Suez Canal Clearance
Operation

President Sadat, in connection with the disengagement agreement in January, asked whether we could help him to determine quickly what would be needed to clear the Suez Canal and its banks of unexploded mines and other ordnance so that dredging could begin. The U.S. Navy sent a team to Egypt to survey the Canal situation, and a copy of its report has been given to the Egyptians.

President Sadat has now asked whether the U.S. Navy could conduct this mine clearing operation for him. I believe you will agree that this seems to be a natural and useful contribution for us to make. Secretary Schlesinger is prepared to proceed. The Defense Department should, however, have some formal directive for its involvement, and the attached memorandum is designed to provide the necessary authorization.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve my signing the attached memorandum instructing Defense to go ahead with the Suez Canal clearing operation. (Tab A)

Approve _____

Other _____

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